(b) to (d) Mint-wise and year-wise details of the stainless steel blanks from Salem Steel Plant used by each of the India Government Mints, imported as well as indigenous, to the extent available are indicated on previous page.

(e) No foreign exchange component is involved since the payment has been made for the supplies to Salem Steel Plant in Indian Rupees.

(f) Details of Mints with their location in the country with their production target and employees strength are indicated below:—

Sl.	Particulars of Mints	Production target 1994-95 (in million pieces)	Employees strength
1.	India Government Mint, Bombay	380	2687
2	India Government Mint, Calcutta	410	2762
3	India Government Mint, Hyderabad	270	1035
4.	India Government Mint, Noida	410	294

(g) There is no proposal under consideration of Government for setting up a Mint at Salem.

CBI Enquiry against Bank Officials

2240. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of bank officers against whom the C.B.I. has been conducting an enquiry during its investigation into the securities scam;

(b) whether any chargesheet has been filed against them; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that its Bank Security and Fraud Cell has been conducting investigations against 103 officers of nationalised/private/foreign banks in connection with irregularities in securities transactions.

Chargesheets have been filed against 37 of the 103 bank officers and the cases against these 37 bank officers are pending trial.

''नाबार्ड'' द्वारा सहकारी बैंकों' को दिये जाने वाली सुविधा

2241. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ''नाबार्ड'' द्वारा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिये सहकारी बैंकों को पुनर्वित्त की सुविधा नहीं दी जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सार्वजनिक हित के इस कार्यक्रम की उपेक्षा किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली हेतु साख की रियायती दर पर पुनर्वित्त सुविधा प्रदान करने पर विचार किया जायेगा?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम.वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति): (क) से (ग) राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) से आशा की जाती है कि वे केवल उत्पादन उन्मुख कार्यकलापों का वित्तपोषण करें। चूंकि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली पूर्णत: एक व्यापारिक कार्य है जो राज्य सरकार द्वारा सहायता प्राप्त कल्याण योजना है अत: सहकारी बैंकों को अपने ही संसाधनों से इस प्रणाली को सहयोग प्रदान करना होगा।

Computerisation of regional centre of I.T. at Bombay

2242. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional centre of the Income Tax Department at Bombay has been computerised;

(b) if so, the details thereof with backgroud;

(c) whether such facility has some objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof with estimated cost incurred thereon;

(e) whether Government propose to extend this facility at other regional centres of country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Computer Systems RS/6000, with intelligent terminals, have been installed in the new Computer Centre, Bombay.

(c) and (d) The objectives of new computer system are to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of tax administration, broaden tax base and ensure better enforcement of tax laws as well as to provide management with reliable data. The estimated cost of setting the regional computer centre at Bombay would be about Rs. 13 crores out of total project cost for three regional centres at Delhi, Bombay and Madras estimated at Rs. 36 crores.

(e) and (f) Comprehensive computerisation has been introduced in other regional centres at Delhi and Madras as well. The regional computer centres have been designed to be linked with each other and to a National Computer Centre.

Lending rates of IFCI

2243. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India has hiked its lending rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether such increase will effect the growth of industrieal activity in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof with remedial steps to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the steps to be taken to increase the industrial growth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) has reported that it has hiked its prime lending rate by one percentage point from 13.5% to 14.5% (exclusive of interest tax) with effect from 20.02.1995. The change is in line with the rise in the cost of deposits and lending rates of commercial banks and other all India financial institutions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Entry of Foreign Insurance Companies

2244. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the advantage of entry of Foreign Insurance Companies in Indian Insurance Sector;

(b) why insurance employees and trade unions are opposed to entry of foreign insurance companies in India;

(c) what is the capital base of Indian Insurance Companies and their annual turnover and net profits;

(d) what is the profits of Indian Insurance Companies on their capital base turnover:

(e) whether large inflow of foreign capital would occur in industry and economy in general due to entry of foreign insurance companies; and

(f) why foreign insurance companies be permitted in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MUTHY): (a), (e) and (f) the Government has not yet taken a final view on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, including proposals for opening up insurance for foreign private participation and detailed modalities for the same.

(b) The General Insurance Corporation of Indis (GIC) have reported that they had gathered from the representations received by them that the employees feel that the existing set up of general insurance industry is adequate to meet the insurance needs of the country; and apprehend that their service conditions and job security might be adversely affected by the advent of foreign insurance companies into India.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is in the enclosed statement.